

Weekly Update June 11th to 18th 2017

We are well into summer now and we are having fun at our three MAPS stations! We caught a couple of cool species this week, including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Swamp Sparrow, and Gray Catbird. We had two extra exciting captures as well... we briefly caught a Blue-winged Teal female at our SOPO MAPS site. This is a small duck, and ducks don't tend to get caught in our nets, nor can we band them. We are not allowed to band game species at BBO. A volunteer removed the teal and let her continue on her way. Finally, we also caught the first male Red-winged Blackbird since opening our new MAPS sites last year! They seem to fly higher than the females and so do not often go near our nets. They are busy defending their territories and bringing food to their multiple females!



Male Red-winged Blackbird. Photo by Sara Pearce Meijerink.

This week the BBO welcomed a long term volunteer who will be joining us from May until mid-August. Luke is studying Environmental Science in Washington and is from Beijing. He has had a blast so far banding MAPS, nest searching, and banding Tree Swallow chicks. We hope he will continue to have a great time here. Contact our head biologist at biologist@beaverhillbirds.com to volunteer too!

We are currently enjoying a great new large suet cage from the Wildbird General Store, which now accompanies our large bird feeder. The Wildbird General Store is a humongous help to us here at

BBO when it comes to keeping our feathered friends full! They provide us with all our seed and suet at cost, saving us lots of money. We go through up to 40lb of seed in a month sometimes, so this makes a huge difference! Thank you so much to Steve and Kay at the Wildbird General Store!!! Eat up birdies!



Large Seed feeder and large Suet Feeder. Photo by Meghan Jacklin.

We are really having a good time with nest searches right now. Now that we are banding MAPS, we only band every couple days, so we need something to fill our time in between. We go searching the Natural Area for natural nests, and we submit them to the Prairie Nest Record Scheme. So far we had an incredible morning of finding 12 nests, we found 19 this week, and we have almost 50 already this summer. Wow! A lot of these are duck nests, which are everywhere this year, but we have also found Least Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Savannah Sparrow, and more.

Other than banding and nest searching, we are getting a lot of maintenance done at BBO. This week we have repaired damaged mist nets, painted signs for the natural area, and added tags to trees to mark Breeding Bird Survey grids. In addition, we removed a large tree that fell across Harrier Highway, where visitors access BBO, so that everyone can get through safely.

We tried another new experiment this week too. Moth expert David Lawrie lent us a female Columbia Silk Moth in a cage. This moth is native to Alberta but no records have been found at BBO. The female moth remained in her cage, outside, but under the porch roof, and each night she would try to

attract a mate with her pheromones. Unfortunately no males were attracted, so this species may not be present at BBO at this time.

Some BBO staff got a TV appearance this week! Geoff Holroyd was interviewed by CBC about the increased lake levels in Beaverhill Lake. Sara and Luke the volunteer joined them as well. Look for us online on CBC news!

Thanks to our great volunteers and interns: Irene, Tessa, and Luca, Zach, Luke, Alyshia, Victoria, Hannah, Steve, Cassandra, Kalen, Shyla, Brandi, Serena, Myla-rae, and any others. You keep us going!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	12	5	7	0	2	26
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	2	0	0	0	7
House Wren	2	0	2	0	0	4
Hermit Thrush	0	0	1	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	3	0	4	0	0	7
Yellow Warbler	7	2	7	0	0	16
Downy Woodpecker	0	0	1	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	5	0	0	0	0	5
American Goldfinch	2	0	0	0	0	2
Song Sparrow	2	1	0	0	1	4
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swamp Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	0	2	0	0	3
Red-winged Blackbird	4	0	0	0	1	5
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	47	10	24	0	5	86

Birds Caught 86
 Net Hours 170
 Capture Rate: 50.59

Capture Rate was 50.59 birds/100 Net Hours.

- 1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.
- 2 Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).
- 3 Banded at a location other than the BBO.
- 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).